Wilcox Newspapers
is proud to introduce our new printing and graphic design division,
WilcoxGraphics

Business cards, flyers, and multi-page booklets, envelopes, labels, and signs, or even fully fledged marketing campaigns — our talented staff of experienced designers and printers can make your ideas stand out like none other.

Couple that with our fast turnaround times and great rates, and you'd be remiss not to let us quote your project today!
269-657-5080, 989-386-4414, or wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com

Connecting you with your community

PAW PAW FLASHES

FREE

January 22, 2026

PUBLISHED BY WILCOX NEWSPAPERS • PO Box 189 • Allegan, MICHIGAN 49010 • 269-657-3072

Kirby honored with lifesaving award

The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office and Central Dispatch recently recognized Dispatch Supervisor Chad Kirby with a Life Saving Award for his outstanding actions while on duty. On Oct. 15, 2025, Supervisor Kirby was working at the Van Buren County Central Dispatch Center when multiple 911 calls were received reporting a structure fire in the Village of Decatur. During this emergency, Supervisor Kirby answered a 911 call from a disabled female who was trapped inside the residence. Through calm, professional, and compassionate communication, Supervisor Kirby efficiently gathered critical information, provided lifesaving emergency instructions and remained calm on the phone to help keep the caller calm while guiding her through crucial steps for survival. At the same time, he relayed vital updates via radio to responding fire and law enforcement personnel attempting to enter the residence. His quick thinking, composure under pressure, and effective coordination were a critical factor in the successful rescue and survival of the victim. Supervisor Kirby's actions exemplify the dedication, professionalism, and lifesaving impact of our 911 dispatchers. We commend him for his immediate response, decisive action, and unwavering commitment to serving the citizens of Van Buren County. Shown in photo from left, Tim McGee, 911 Director, Chad Kirby, dispatch supervisor, and Van Buren County Sheriff, Daniel Abbott.
Photo courtesy/Van Buren County Sheriff's Office

Chapman honored with Stork award

The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office and Central Dispatch recently recognized Dispatcher Deb Chapman with a Stork Award for her outstanding professionalism and calm response during a critical emergency call. On Dec. 9, 2025, at approximately 6:36 a.m., Dispatcher Chapman received a 911 call from a female in Waverly Township who was in active labor. After quickly assessing the situation, Dispatcher Chapman determined the delivery was imminent and immediately began providing medically established childbirth instructions over the phone. Through clear communication, Dispatcher Chapman successfully guided the caller through the delivery of a healthy baby boy – all within approximately 1.5 minutes of receiving the call. She remained on the line, providing comfort and assurance until emergency medical personnel arrived to take over care. Dispatcher Chapman's professionalism, decisive actions, and compassionate support were key factors in ensuring a smooth delivery and a positive outcome for both mother and child. Her ability to remain composed during such a high-stress and joyful moment reflects the exceptional standard of service provided by our 911 dispatchers. Shown in photo, center is Dispatcher Deb Chapman, at left Dispatch Director Tim McGee, and at right, VanBuren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.
Photo courtesy/Van Buren County Sheriff's Office

Paw Paw Library's new outdoor space begins to take shape

Lounsbury Construction, Paw Paw, recently began preparing the ground for the Paw Paw District Library's pavilion and mini-amphitheatre that will be in the library's new outdoor space. Paw Paw District Library Director Gretchen Evans said the pavilion and amphitheater will be installed over the next two weeks. Construction will resume in the spring. "We anticipate the new outdoor space will be complete at the beginning of June," said Evans.
Photos courtesy/Paw Paw District Library

Paw Paw High School Hall of Fame ceremony inducts three

Paw Paw Public Schools held its 2026 Hall of Fame ceremony, Friday, Jan. 16. The three inductees, Richard McLellan, shown in front row, Dr. Haleigh Gokey Leslie, third from left, and Terry Kannegieter, center, are shown with Paw Paw Board of Education members, from left, Nathan Mitchell, Board President Brent McNitt, Ray Martin, third from right, and Mary Beth Sons, and at far right, Superintendent Jeremy Davison.
Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Lithium-ion battery fire on FedEx truck shuts down portion of M-51

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
new4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW – A semi-truck and trailer fire loaded with lithium-ion batteries, shut down a portion of M-51 Highway for a period of time on Friday, Jan. 16, according to a press release from the Paw Paw Fire Department.

The Paw Paw Fire Department was dispatched at 3:59 a.m. for a semi-trailer fire with hazardous materials on board on M-51 Highway, just south of Interstate 94 Highway.

Paw Paw Fire Department Fire Chief Kyle Richardson said, "While enroute to the scene, Paw Paw Fire Department was advised by Van Buren County Central Dispatch that lithium-ion batteries were loaded in the trailer. Once on-scene, Paw Paw firefighters arrived to find a working fire with smoke showing from a semi-trailer.

"Through documentation provided by the driver, it was confirmed that approximately 800 pounds of lithium-ion batteries were on board. Once that was established, Paw Paw firefighters requested Berrien County Sheriff Department Hazmat Team to be dispatched to the scene.

Fire Chief Richardson said the area around the trailer was evacuated and M-51 Highway was shut down as a precaution, due to toxic smoke from the lithium-ion batteries. He said the fire department used approximately 10,000 gallons of water to extinguish the fire.

Once the fire was extinguished, an environmental company that was dispatched to the scene removed the batteries from the trailer. After the batteries were removed from the scene, M-51 Highway was re-opened at approximately 10:30 a.m.

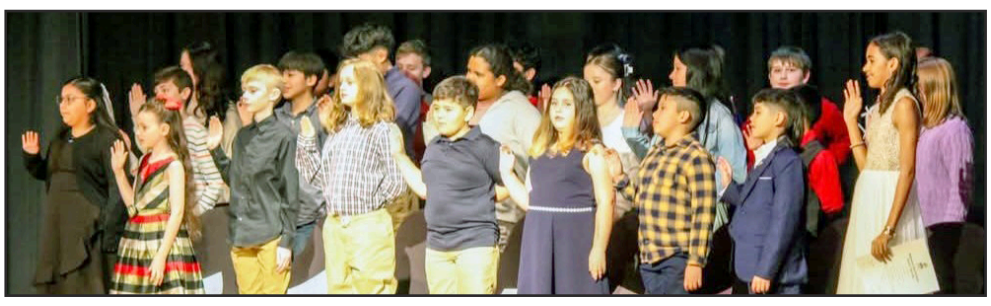
The Paw Paw Fire Department was assisted by the Decatur-Hamilton Fire Department, Lawrence Fire Department, Lawton Fire Department, Van Buren Emergency Medical Services, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, Berrien County Sheriff's Department Hazmat Team, Michigan State Police, Paw Paw Police Department, Decatur Police Department, Pokagon Tribal Police, Response Management Services (RMS) and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Lawrence Schools holds 2026 Hall of Fame induction

Lawrence Public School held Hall of Fame night, Jan. 16, as the Class of 2026 was inducted. This year, members include, from left, Rod Cornwell, representing the 1961-62 Boys Basketball Team, Shayne Whittington (Class of 2009), Mindy (Houser) Fernando (Class of 1996), David Van Zoeren (Class of 1980), Larry Norris, representing his uncle, John Marconi (Class of 1967), and Richard Marconi (Class of 1962). Photo courtesy/Tom Reynnells

TOGETHER WE GIVE.
March 19, 2026
TIME, TALENT, TREASURE
Come explore our Volunteer Fair, showcasing many nonprofits around Allegan County at The Silo in Allegan from 12-2pm.
Donate to your favorite nonprofit fund at ACCF on March 19th and have your gift DOUBLED! All donations up to a total of $61,000 will be matched.
Allegan County Community Foundation
Impacting Community, For Good. For Ever.
ALLEGAN COUNTY GIVES
TIME. TALENT. TREASURE

Lawrence Elementary School makes history with inaugural National Elementary Honor Society induction



Lawrence Elementary School recently celebrated a milestone in academic excellence, officially inducting its first-ever class into the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS). It marks the establishment of a chapter dedicated to recognizing students who go above and beyond in their studies and their service to the community. Photo courtesy/Lawrence Public Schools

you might not know we have life, home, auto and business insurance. now you do.
simple human sense
MCKENZIE INSURANCE
303 E Michigan, Paw Paw, MI 49079
Hrs: Mon-Fri, 9-5; Sat by Appt.
mckenziemi.com • 269.657.2548
Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Brian Begeman named Mattawan Firefighter of the Year

MATTAWAN – "The Mattawan Fire District proudly reflects on another year of dedicated service to the community, responding to a total of 982 calls for service over the past year. These calls represent a wide range of emergencies, from fire suppression and rescue operations to medical and public assistance responses, underscoring the district's ongoing commitment to public safety," said Scott Brooks, Fire Chief, Mattawan Fire District.

Brooks announced that as part of this year's recognition, the Mattawan Fire District is honored to name Brian Begeman as Firefighter of the Year.

"This award recognizes Firefighter Begeman's exceptional dedication, professionalism, and unwavering service to the district and the residents it serves. His commitment to training, teamwork, and community service exemplifies the highest standards of the fire service," said Brooks.

According to Brooks, the success of the Mattawan Fire District is built on the dedication of its members and the strong partnerships it shares with neighboring agencies.

"The district's ability to respond to nearly a thousand calls this year would not be possible without a collective effort of our members, their families, neighboring agencies, and local businesses," said Brooks.

The Mattawan Fire District extends its sincere gratitude to the many agencies and partners who were able to join them in recognizing Firefighter Begeman:

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, Lawton Fire Department, Paw Paw Fire Department, Antwerp Township, H&S Fleet, Rob's Tire, and Moses Equipment.

Brooks concluded, "The Mattawan Fire District remains committed to serving the community with professionalism, integrity, and pride, and looks forward to continuing its mission of protecting lives and property in the years to come."

Crew wants to know
DID YOUR HUMAN DROP THE BALL ON SCHEDULING YOUR
HVAC
Maintenance?
#BETTERCALLMMS
Mattawan Mechanical Services

2ND FRONT PAGE

Forest House gets special land use approval

By James Windell

The Historical Association of South Haven (HASH) submitted a Special Land Use Application to the South Haven Planning Commission on January 8, 2026.

The Special Land Use request related to Forest House in downtown South Haven. Zoning Administrator Kelly Getman-Dissette told the Planning Commission that HASH was asking to use the upper two floors of Forest House as a hotel.

"The upper floors contain four flats or apartments," Getman-Dissette said and added that HASH wants to be able to rent these apartments.

Jim Ollgaard, President of HASH, said in support of the Special Land Use request that "We plan to use both the second and third floors for hotel-type rentals."

The building at 313 Center Street was built as a hotel in 1853. HASH bought the building in 2022 and has been renovating it so that it resembles what it looked like in the past. Renamed Forest House, the building currently has a retail shop and a speakeasy on the first floor.

The Historical Society would like to renovate the upper floors to accommodate three hotel-like units. These units are proposed to be more similar to amenities found in an extended stay hotel, simply meaning that HASH intends to develop these three units to contain gathering spaces, bathrooms, and multiple bedrooms; similar to a suite style hotel. HASH says that the hotel is very niche oriented and not similar to hotels that may be found near I-196. Hotels, however, are special land uses in the Central Business District of downtown South Haven.

A public hearing was held on January 8, 2026, during the Planning Commission meeting, although there were no public comments. However, Planning Commission members raised questions about the parking spaces that would be required if the Forest House is used as a hotel.

Ollgaard said that the hotel could potentially house 20 guests, but that they could use municipal parking spaces that are close to the Forest House. While some Planning Commission members raised concerns about parking in the downtown area, the members of the commission were in agreement that this should be a concern of the City Council and that the council needs to deal with seasonal parking problems.

Rasing no other objections, the Planning Commission unanimously approved the Forest House request for special land use status.

Michigan Flywheelers Museum receives challenge grant

By James Windell

The Michigan Flywheelers Museum has just announced that it has been awarded a $100,000 Challenge Grant. The grant will go towards the construction of a brand-new ticket booth and gift shop.

"Being awarded this grant means that we can move forward much quicker to develop the new entrance to the museum," says Museum President Patrick Ingalls. "In reality, it could have taken quite a while to raise the funds necessary but now, we can focus on moving forward, hopefully, within the coming year."

This project marks the first phase of a transformative new entrance designed to enhance the visitor experience at one of the region's most popular historical destinations. The proposed facility will serve as a modern "front door" to the museum's 80-acre campus, located just east of South Haven on 68th Street.

Designed to blend historical charm with contemporary convenience, the new barn-style structure will include an improved admission area where guests can comfortably purchase tickets for museum events. Also, the grant will help construct more accessible and modern restroom facilities to accommodate the museum's growing number of annual visitors. Finally, an expanded gift shop is planned which will mean a larger retail space featuring unique Flywheelers logo items, tractor-themed home decor and old fashion toys.

"Once completed, the new entrance will be our 'Welcome Center' to the museum," says Ingalls. "It will be the central hub for ticket purchases, guest information and offer a larger retail space for museum memorabilia. It will significantly improve the site's inclusivity ensuring that guests – regardless of mobility – can easily navigate to the museum's large campus."

As a Challenge Grant, every dollar donated by the community and supporters will be matched, up to $100,000. This provides a unique opportunity for donors to see their contributions work twice as hard toward preserving Michigan's agricultural heritage.

Ingalls says the project is an investment in improving the visitor experience and preserving Michigan's agricultural heritage. The new entrance is also tied to the museum's Black River Railroad steam train project now under construction.

The museum is asking local businesses, historical enthusiasts, and the South Haven community to help meet the $100,000 goal. Contributions can be made online via the museum's website, by mail, or by attending one of several planned fundraisers.

"This grant is a transformative moment for us," explains Ingalls. "For years, our volunteers have worked tirelessly to preserve our agricultural history and the equipment that had such an impact on it. By helping us meet this challenge, you are ensuring that the museum is accessibly, comfortable and welcoming for every generation to come."

For more information, visit www.michiganflywheelers.org.

Semi trucks, whiteout cause 15-vehicle pileup

From roughly 11 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, January 19th, northbound U.S. 131 was closed from West Main Street/M-43 to D Avenue as crews worked to clear a 15-vehicle pileup caused by whiteout conditions, a jack-knifed semi truck, and another truck that breached the guard-rails. The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene, and all photos are from the agency's Facebook page.

PAW PAW DISTRICT LIBRARY
CHECK IT OUT!
UPCOMING EVENTS 1/26 - 1/31
Mon., January 26 10 am-11 am TODDLERS: Storytime
Tues., January 27 10:30 am-12 pm ADULTS: Color Me Happy
Wed., January 28 6 pm-7 pm CHILDREN: Party Like a Flockstar
Thurs., January 29 6:30 pm-7:30 pm ADULTS: Between the Lines Book Club The Caretaker by Ron Rash
Fri., January 30 10:30 am-11:30 am ADULTS: Listen Up Audiobook Club Designed for people with low vision.
Visit pawpawlib.org or call 269.657.3800 for more information!

S&S CUSTOM BUILDERS (269) 623-4788 FREE ESTIMATES!
• Additions • Excavating • Remodeling • Demolition • Garages • Concrete Foundations • Decks • Concrete Floors • Pole Barns • Concrete Driveways • Roofing/Siding • Concrete Patios • Ceramic Tile • Heating/Air Conditioning • Window Replacement
We pride ourselves on QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP!
S&S CUSTOM BUILDERS -OWNERS- Scott C. Dolfman • Logan C. Dolfman • Mason S. Dolfman
(269) 623-4788
Licensed sscustombuilders.com Bonded

MICHIGAN'S #1 FENCE COMPANY
FENCE CONSULTANTS Of West Michigan
Residential & Commercial Fencing
Railing • Gates and Access Control
Temporary Rental Fences • Wire Mesh Partitions
Holland (616) 392-3496 Kalamazoo (269) 359-1296

Our Town Players
South Haven Area Community Theater
PRESENTS OUR YOUTH PRODUCTION
The Enchanted Bookshop
BY TODD WALLINGER COURTESY OF PIONEER DRAMA SERVICE
Friday, January 30 at 7:00
Saturday, January 31 at 7:00
Sunday, February 1 at 3:00
At Listiak Auditorium
600 Elkenburg St., South haven
For more information or tickets
www.ourtownplayers.org

County Commissioners approve tentative agreements

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW – Van Buren County Commissioners on Jan. 13, approved a Collective Bargaining Agreement for the 2026-2028 contract period with Police Officers Labor Council (POLC) – Command bargaining unit.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement has been reviewed, finalized, and ratified by the union and reflects mutually agreed-upon modifications that align with county operational priorities, current labor market conditions, and internal comparability objectives.

The agreement includes annual wage increases of three percent for each year from 2026 through 2028, clarification of contract language, and other adjustments intended to enhance contract consistency, equity, and administration.

The financial impact of these changes has been reviewed by Van Buren County Administration and incorporated into the county's long-term budget planning. The costs associated with the agreement will be funded through the General Fund and, where applicable, through departmental grants and millages, depending on specific roles within the bargaining unit.

The agreement is for Jan.1, 2026, through Dec.31, 2028.

Commissioners approved the tentative agreement between the county and AFSCME, all units except for Public Transit, for the term of Jan. 1, 2026, through Dec. 31, 2028.

Van Buren County concluded negotiations with AFSCME, resulting in a tentative agreement for the 2026 - 2028 contract period for all units except Public Transit.

The tentative agreement has been reviewed, finalized, and ratified by the union and reflects mutually agreed-upon modifications that align with County operational priorities, current labor market conditions, and internal comparability objectives.

The agreement includes annual wage increases of three percent for each year from 2026 through 2028, clarification of contract language, and other adjustments intended to enhance contract consistency, equity, and administration.

The financial impact of these changes has been reviewed by administration and incorporated into the county's long-term budget planning.

Costs associated with the tentative agreements will be funded through the General Fund and, where applicable, through departmental grants and millages, depending on specific roles within the bargaining unit.

Commissioners approved the appointment of Chad Hunt to the Building Authority for a three-year term, expiring on Dec. 31, 2028. Hunt's appointment filled a vacancy on the Building Authority.

Commissioners also approved the appointment of Emilly Hickmott to the Parks Commission for a three-year term ending Dec. 31, 2028.

The appointment of Kimberly Kiley to the Land Preservation Board was approved by commissioners. Kiley's background includes service as the Lawrence Township treasurer, providing four years of governmental experience, in addition to a 20-year career as a private duty nurse, reflecting a long-standing commitment to public service and community caregiving. She is actively involved in multiple civic and community organizations, including the local Lions Club, senior services programming, and community supper initiatives, where she regularly contributes as a volunteer.

Commissioners said Kiley demonstrated a personal and professional commitment to farmland and natural resource preservation, a core mission of the Land Preservation Board, and her continued service supports long-term land conservation efforts within Van Buren County.

Kiley will serve a three-year term, ending Dec. 31, 2028.

Lawton Village Council puts non-compliance rental owners on notice

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

LAWTON - Lawton Village Manager Todd Hackenberg said that as of Tuesday, Jan. 13, there are seven rental properties in the village that have not registered and are past the deadline. With council support, the village clerk will send out letters that have a final reminder, and those noncompliant after will be subject to a $1,000 fine per ordinance.

Village Manager Hackenberg said during December, the Village of Lawton Department of Public Works plowed snow. He said village secondary roads are plowed each day the village receives snow, though less often than primary roads which receive the most traffic.

Village Council member Judith Peterson reported that the Village of Lawton Planning Commission met, and Pin High Golf sent a site plan for their clubhouse, as well as a special use permit for alcohol sales. Peterson said HS Fleet, another new business in town, will have a site plan for the February meeting.

Village Council member Ryan Tanis asked if there was any timetable on the demolition of the former D Coy Ducks restaurant. Village Manager Hackenberg said a current extension on the demolition permit runs through the end of July. Hackenberg said he will follow up with the owner on demolition plans.

The village council received a request from Van Buren County Resource Recovery and Recycling Program for the annual contribution. In the past, the village has contributed $500 annually to this program. Council members approved to continue with $500 to the program.

The village council approved the 2026 holiday schedule as it has been in the past, with the addition this year of Veteran's Day.

Scott Club will host two programs in February

By James Windell

After more than 140 years of providing intellectual and literary programing, the Scott Club is finally having a lift installed so people who have difficulty with stairs can get to the second floor where most programs are held.

Despite the building being off limits for programs while the lift installation is taking place, programming in January and February will continue. In February 2026, two important events will be held.

On February 3, the Black History Leadership Society will present "2026: A Century of Black History Commemorations." Instead of meeting on the second floor of the Scott Club, this program will be held across the street at the First Congregational Church.

Each February, the members of the Black History Leadership Society of South Haven present a program aimed at keeping black history alive in celebration of Black History.

"This program is the kick off for Black History Month," notes Dorothy Sherrod, a member of the South Haven Black History Leadership Society. "A Century of Black History Commemorations is the National Theme for this year, the local theme is 'Honoring African American Health Care Professionals Past and Present.'"

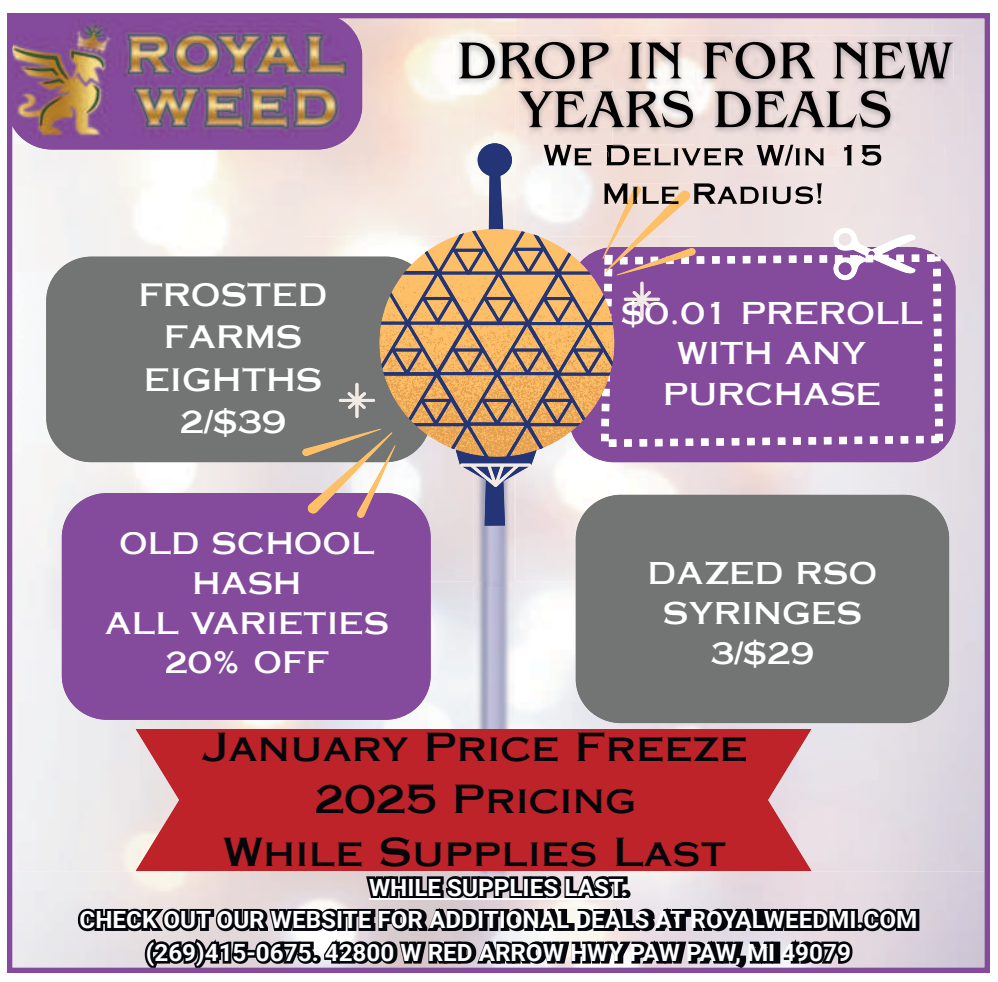
Sherrod explains that at the Scott Club presentation, those attending can expect spiritual songs and information of their meaning. "Also," Sherrod adds, "we will bring an awareness to local health care professionals, as well as contributions from African Americans to the advancement of medical technology."

On Tuesday, February 17, local quilter and quilting instructor Deloa Jones will tell about her remarkable quilting journey that has spanned over 46 years. Jones will tell her story of how her quilting masterpieces have evolved by displaying 20 to 25 quilts that range from her earliest piece to her newest design. What attendees will discover is the artistry and passion behind every stitch in some of Deloa Jones's most remarkable quilts.

The Scott Club in South Haven is a historic cultural and literary organization founded in 1883 and is well known for its community programs, lectures, and arts events. It is also known for its landmark 1893 Queen Anne – style clubhouse. It is an active nonprofit organization dedicated to education, culture, and community enrichment.

The February 3, 2026 program, "2026: A Century of Black History Commemorations," will be held at 1:00 pm at the First Congregational Church, 651 Phoenix Street. "A Quilting Journey," featuring Deloa Jones, will also be held at the First Congregational Church on February 17 at 1:00 pm. All programs are free and open to the public.

Auto Accidents • Serious Injuries
Wrongful Death
Helping People in Michigan For Over 35 Years
COOPER LAW
www.cooperlawplc.com
VA DISABLILITY LAW CENTER
www.veteransdisabilitylawcenter.com
ARMED FORCES FOUNDATION
www.usarmedforcesfoundation.org
501(c)3 nonprofit charity
SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT FOUNDATION
www.scrafoundation.org
501(c)3 nonprofit charity
269-436-8316
134 S, PHELPS STREET #64 • DECATUR, MI 49045
LOCATED IN THE HISTORIC MINT EXCHANGE BUILDING DOWNTOWN DECATUR


ROYAL WEED
DROP IN FOR NEW YEARS DEALS
WE DELIVER W/IN 15 MILE RADIUS!
FROSTED FARMS EIGHTHS 2/$39
$0.01 PREROLL WITH ANY PURCHASE
OLD SCHOOL HASH ALL VARIETIES 20% OFF
DAZED RSO SYRINGES 3/$29
JANUARY PRICE FREEZE
2025 PRICING
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL DEALS AT ROYALWEEDMI.COM
(269)415-0675. 42800 W RED ARROW HWY PAW PAW, MI 49079

SPORTS

South Haven three-sport athlete enjoying success

Isaac Chalupa is a 3-sport athlete at South Haven.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Isaac Chalupa was a center back and right back for South Haven who was a key part of a memorable soccer season which resulted in a state runner-up finish.

The dramatic 2-1 win over Fremont highlighted a South Haven effort in the state semifinals that put the squad in the state semifinals.

'It was the same motivation and intensity we had in the past few district games," he said. "With that we came out with a win. We know if we played like that we could come out with a win."

South Haven was playing a Fremont team which entered the semifinals with a 21-0 record.

"It was a higher competition compared to other teams we played," Chalupa said. "They had great offense and defense and could move the ball very well. We beat a lot of teams ranked higher than us so there's nothing stopping us now."

The key to beating powerhouse teams, Chalupa said, "is coming together for 80 minutes and pushing through."

Chalupa had some key defensive stops during various postseason games.

He was strong on defense all season.

"We just have good communication," he said, "and make sure we stop balls that need to be stopped and make sure nothing gets past us."

Chalupa also plays basketball and baseball at South Haven.

South Haven athlete had solid junior season

Angel Barajas has had a successful sports career at South Haven

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Angel Barajas has had a successful sports career at South Haven and will always fondly remember one particular moment when he was on the Rams' soccer team.

He scored in the team's 2-1 victory in the state semifinal game against Fremont as the Rams went on to the state title game and wound up being state finalists.

His first goal of the state semifinal game "came from crazy energy," Barajas recalled. "We were down and it put us in the lead. It felt really good, it got the team motivated again. At halftime, were down."

His goal came on a penalty kick. The key to having success in that situation, he said, "was fake it to the other side."

Barajas was a junior and it was his second year of varsity soccer.

He scored seven goals during the season. "The key is having confidence in shooting the ball and make sure you're taking the shot at the right time," Barajas said.

Solid team work and communication was the key to the team's success, he said.

Gobles boy wrestlers have big week

Brody Marshall picked up his 100th win in the team dual against South Haven.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles wrestlers were in action on Jan. 14 and 17.

Gobles defeated Fennville and South Haven in Conference Duals.

Gobles placed two at the Ron Russo Invitational and placed four at the Hudson Invitational stat leaders.

"Bryce Doorlag and Colton Colingsworth placed fourth and third respectively at the Ron Russo Invitational at Kalamazoo Central," coach Erin Carlin said. "Brody Marshall (third), Finn Carlin (fourth), Devin Doorlag (seventh), and Aiden Dukes (seventh) all placed at the highly competitive Hudson Invitational at Hudson.

"Bryce, Colton, Brody, Finn, Devin, and Aiden were solid all week. They practiced well and put themselves in a position to be successful. In going to Hudson and having success, the boys showed, yet again, that Gobles wrestlers can compete with some of the best in the state."

Brody Marshall secured his 100th win in the team dual against South Haven.

Gobles will be in the SAC Conference Duals at Constantine versus Constantine and Lawton.

Gobles girls wrestlers have big day

Gobles girls wrestlers have enjoyed recent success.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles girls wrestling team put in the work over holiday break and it showed in competition according to coach Dan Morris.

Friday (Jan. 9) "we made the two-hour drive to Lakeview High School to face some new competition," Morris said. "Some of the best athletes in the area were present and our girls stepped up to the line no matter who they were.

"Alysa Sparks wrestled in our 100 pound weight class for the first time of the season. She started the day off with a quick pin in the first round. After falling victim to a more technical wrestler in the second round, she came back to win her next two matches and secure a third-place finish."

Freedom Morris "continues to push the pace on the mat,": Dan Morris said. "After getting stuck in a head and arm in her first match of the day, she hit a mental reset and jumped back on the mat winning her next two matches with grit and determination, pinning both and securing a third place finish.

"Jasmine Gutierrez started the day with a tough loss but came back in her next match winning by pin. She earned her first medal of the year finishing the day in fourth place. She grows as a wrestler every week and will be very good in no time."

Gobles was set to hit the mats for the next round of competition at Kalamazoo Central earlier this week.

Lawrence girls top White Pigeon

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — Lawrence defeated White Pigeon 31-29 in girls basketball action on Jan. 16.

Carolina Mancera and Colleen MCcaw had 10 points apiece for Lawrence.

Kaylin Leyva had nine points.

The Lawrence girls won 42-26 over Hartford on Jan; 13 at home and lost to Cassopolis on Jan. 9.

Lawrence's boys basketball team is 7-5 after a 69-63 loss to White Pigeon. Lawrence had defeated Hartford 62-54 on Jan 13 and lost to Cassopolis on Jan. 9.

The Tigers were scheduled to play at home on Jan. 19 with Kalamazoo Heritage Christian, at Decatur on Jan. 23 and at home on Jan. 27 with Bangor.

Lawrence's wrestling team competed at the recent Marcellus Tournament.

Zachary Plane had a pin at 175 pounds against Cole Spry of Marcellus in 2:04.

He was pinned by Brendan Jackson of Bangor in 25 seconds.

Adriam Valerio was at 190 pounds for Lawrence. He won over Cyle Krohling of Richland Gull Lake and decisioned Tyler Colds of Buchanan 9-2. He was pinned in his final match by Cody Priest of Schoolcraft in 45 seconds.

Paw Paw wrestlers lose matches

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's wrestling team lost dual matches to Three Rivers (82-0) and to Sturgis (54-20) last week.

Against Three Rivers, Gunner Gale, Aaron Quiles, Benton Hollingsworth, Brady Nix, Colby Barnett, Lucas Turanzas, Micah Brown, Ty Elmore, Carter Thompson, Tyler Pentland, Kolby Armiljo and Victor Armiljo lost their matches.

Against Sturgis, Paw Paw won four of its matches.

Kolby Armiljo (165) beat Juan Pablo Benegas-Solo 20-3.

Victor Armiljo (175) defeated Alex Valdez 13-8.

Gunner Gale (19) pinned Samuel Bracko in 1:29.

Aaron Quiles pinned Brandon Aceves Ruiz in 39 seconds.

Paw Paw was set to wrestle at Vicksburg on Jan. 21.

Bangor girls defeat Bloomingdale

By John Raffel

BANGOR— Alexis Wiśniewski scored 14 points and Cielo Malondado added 13 in leading Bangor's girls basketball team to a 53-27 win over Bloomingdale on Jan. 17.

Izzy Horvath added nine points for Bangor.

Wiśniewski had 11 rebounds and five steals for Banger while Maldonado had nine rebounds. Amiyah Corona had four steals and two assists.

Bangor lost to Centreville 46-35 on Jan. 13.

Wiśniewski scored 11 points while Horvath had 10 points and three steals. Corona had four steals and two assists.

Bangor was scheduled to play at Coldwater Pansophia Academy on Jan. 20 and at Comstock on Jan. 22. There's also a home game on Jan. 27 with Lawrence and on Jan. 30 with Marcellus.

The Bangor girls have a 5-5 record.

The Bangor boys basketball team is 8-4 after a 57-45 loss to Bloomingdale on Jan. 16. Bangor had wins over Centreville 54-46 on Jan. 13 and 54-47 over Hartford on Jan. 8. Bangor was set to be at home with White Pigeon on Jan. 20 and with Comstock on Jan. 23.

Mattawan girls fall to Gull Lake

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN --Mattawan's girls basketball team lost its fourth straight game and fell to 2-6 overall on Jan. 16 with a 33-28 loss to Richland Gull Lake.

Gull Lake (now 7-1) jumped out to a 12-5 1st quarter lead behind seven points from Kenadie Schuemann. Both teams traded baskets in the second to make it 19-12 at the half.

In the third quarter Mattawan chipped away at the lead behind four points each from Caitlin Ryan and Charlotte Douglass and headed to the fourth down 25-22.

In the fourth quarter, Mattawan briefly took a 26-25 lead after a Douglass layup, but Gull Lake responded by outscoring Mattawan 8-2 in the final four minutes.

Mattawan was led by Ryan and Douglass with eight points apiece.

Schuemann and Addy Woodrow had nine points apiece for Gull Lake and Ali Bates had seven points.

Mattawan lost on Jan. 13 to Kalamazoo Central 44-41.

Mattawan will play at Stevensville Lakeshore on Jan. 23, at Portage Northern on Jan. 27 and is home on Jan. 28 against St. Joseph.

FOUNE
WELL DRILLING INC.
Since 1970
RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL - IRRIGATION
WELL DRILLING & REPAIR
4" - 8" Wells
Specializing in 5" PVC Wells
Member of Michigan and National Ground Water Association
GROUND WATER PROFESSIONALS
628-2700
33215 M-43 • Paw Paw
STATE LICENSE #80-2159
05-04-15FL

BREWSTER'S
FINE FOOD & SPIRITS
1420 M89, OTSEGO • 269-694-1818
DINE IN & TAKE OUT
HOURS
Wed.-Thurs. 11am-9pm
Fri.-Sat. 11am-10pm
Sun. 12pm-7pm
Kitchen closes 1/2 hour before the bar.
Potato Wedges only $2.99 per order
EXTRA SIDES
• Cole Slaw • Potato Salad • French Fries
• Baked Beans • Cottage Cheese • Garlic Mashed Potatoes
$2.75
BONE-IN BROASTED CHICKEN
GRAB & GO
by the piece, box or bucket!
AVAILABLE
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
11AM TO 6PM
Call ahead for large orders!
By the box/bucket
4 piece $7.75
8 piece $13.99
16 piece $27.75
32 piece $55.00
By the piece
Leg $2.00
Thigh $2.00
Wing $2.00
Breast $3.00

VIEWPOINT

The roadblocks to a cancer cure are frustrating

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

Every few years, the same frustrated question resurfaces: With all the money, technology and brainpower in the world, why haven't we cured cancer yet? It's a fair question. We've put men on the moon, decoded the human genome and carry supercomputers in our pockets. Surely cancer should be history by now.

The uncomfortable truth is this: cancer isn't one disease. It's hundreds of diseases, each behaving differently, mutating constantly and adapting in ways that make it one of the most complex challenges modern medicine has ever faced.

When people talk about "curing cancer," they often imagine a single breakthrough—a miracle drug or treatment that wipes it out once and for all. But cancer doesn't work that way. Breast cancer is not lung cancer. Leukemia is not pancreatic cancer. Even two patients with the same diagnosis can respond very differently to the same treatment. Cancer is personal, genetic and, at times, maddeningly unpredictable.

That complexity alone would make a cure difficult. But it is not the only obstacle. Bureaucracy has also played a significant—and often underappreciated—role in slowing progress. This is where actual progress is stalled. Federal agencies, reporting requirements, and the regulatory progress in this writer's view have made it almost impossible to find a cure. In my mind many of these restrictions must be lifted.

Medical research is governed by layers of regulation, oversight committees, institutional review boards, funding gatekeepers and federal agencies. While many of these safeguards exist to protect patients, they also create delays that can stretch promising discoveries into decade-long approval processes. A treatment that shows real promise in a laboratory may take 10 to 15 years before it ever reaches patients, assuming it survives the maze of paperwork, trials and regulatory hurdles.

Researchers often spend as much time applying for grants, complying with reporting requirements and navigating administrative rules as they do conducting actual science. Innovative ideas can die not because they don't work, but because they don't fit neatly into funding criteria or established research models. Risk-taking—the kind that often leads to breakthroughs—is frequently discouraged by systems that reward caution and predictability.

The regulatory process for new cancer drugs is another bottleneck. Clinical trials are expensive, slow and highly controlled. While patient safety must always come first, critics argue that the system sometimes errs too far on the side of delay, keeping potentially life-saving treatments out of reach for patients who have run out of options. Compassionate-use programs exist, but they are often buried under red tape and inconsistent rules.

Then there's the issue of incentives. Pharmaceutical companies operate within bureaucratic and financial frameworks that don't always reward cures. Long-term treatments can be more profitable than one-time solutions, and navigating approval systems can discourage smaller companies or independent researchers from entering the field at all.

Cancer also mutates. A treatment that works today may fail tomorrow because surviving cells adapt and become resistant. That's why cancer care often involves combinations of surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, immunotherapy and targeted drugs. Doctors aren't throwing everything at the wall—they're trying to stay one step ahead of a constantly evolving enemy.

Prevention adds another layer of frustration. Many cancers are linked to smoking, poor diet, inactivity, environmental exposure and delayed screenings. Addressing those risks requires public policy changes, education campaigns and regulatory courage—areas where bureaucracy often moves slowly and cautiously, even when the science is clear.

This saddens me. Thousands die from some form of cancer each year, yet we can't, as a government or bureaucracy get a handle on all these roadblocks to a cure. I also can't understand why people continue to smoke knowing it is a death wish.

Perhaps the better question isn't why cancer hasn't been cured—but why we expect a single cure at all. The future likely lies in thousands of personalized treatments, faster approval pathways and a system that trusts doctors and patients to make informed decisions sooner rather than later.

Cancer hasn't been cured yet because it is extraordinarily complex—and because the systems built to manage risk and process innovation often move slower than the disease itself. We need to flip the script and get out in front of the disease.

Sheriff's Report- Victim Services Unit helps nearly 300 people in 2025

"Our Victim Services Unit ended 2025 with 47 callouts. With the callouts, they were able to help 295 people. VSU plays a huge role in our office in helping those in need and I cannot thank them enough for what they do," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

"Our Office assisted Decatur/Hamilton Fire Department and Decatur Police Department with a grain bin incident in the Village of Decatur. There were numerous departments and agencies involved in the situation, and everyone worked well together with a positive outcome," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our Office had our annual federal inspection, and we passed with no issues. We must have this annually due to having a contract with the United States Marshalls Office to house federal inmates," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic assault in Bangor Township. The suspect was lodged for domestic assault, assault by strangulation, and interfering with an electronic communication device (took the phone so they couldn't call for help).

Uniform Response assisted Mattawan Police Department with a search warrant execution for a suspect pointing a gun at an individual. The suspect was located and taken into custody for the incident.

Uniform Response handled an assault complaint in Bangor Township. "The investigation found that no assault took place, but one of the individuals involved had a warrant for his arrest out of Allegan County. He was lodged on the warrant awaiting pickup from Allegan County," said Sheriff Abbott.

"I was invited to the Paw Paw/Lawton Mason Lodge 25 this past week. They once again made a large monetary donation to our Child Safety of America Inc. program. It's a program we use for materials to educate our youth in the county to keep them safe. I truly enjoyed the evening and a huge thank you for donating to the program, it makes a difference in our community. I would also like to thank all the others who donate to the program as well," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Dispatcher Deb Chapman was presented a Stork Award at the 911 Advisory Board Meeting by our office. Deb processed a 911 call about a 25-year-old female in active labor. She calmly provided the critically established medical protocols for assisting in childbirth and determined the delivery was imminent. In approximately 1½ minutes from receiving the call, she successfully assisted in delivering a healthy baby boy. Deb stayed on the line to provide comfort and assurance until emergency medical personnel arrived on scene. Great job!" said Sheriff Abbott.

Supervisor Chad Kirby from Dispatch was presented a Life Saving Award at the 911 Advisory Board meeting by our office. Dispatch received multiple 911 calls coming in related to a house that was on fire in the Village of Decatur. Chad took one of the calls in which it was a disabled resident who was trapped in a bathroom in the house that was on fire. Chad calmly, efficiently, and professionally gathered the necessary information and instructed the caller what to do through emergency fire protocols. While on the phone with the caller, Chad directed via radio to the fire department on scene where she was at. Without Chads actions, the outcome of this house fire may have had a different outcome. Great teamwork, great job by Chad!" said Sheriff Abbott.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor's musings hide his partisan politics

To The Editor

It has been interesting watching editor Wilcox craftily hide a partisan politic the last couple years. His musings often make sense on the surface covering issues many are concerned about, like the one about money in politics. The gist of it of course was about billionaires buying politicians. However the line "like George Soros" was revealing as the only billionaire mentioned. Clever, yes? The line implied all the right-wing, anti-liberal rhetoric without actually saying it. In a very right-wing way though, Wilcox failed to mention at the time the top 16 0f 25 billionaire donors to the 2020 election were republicans. Together they gave $152 MILLION more than the 9 Democrats who included Soros.

As time past and especially nearer the 2024 election the musings became less covert. Finally the MAGA language appeared in the Musings. Comments about the "woke agenda," PRESIDENT Biden's physical health and such until finally a column actually thanking God for DOGE. An amazing comment in retrospect since DOGE cost millions, enabled Musk to cancel investigations into his companies, walk off with personal info of Americans and gain more billions in government contracts.

Since the last election Wilcox has been eerily silent. Not a word about ICE thugs arresting and detaining people with legal status and even U.S. natural born citizens. Yes they are, for those in the back. Last week agents dragged a 17 year old TEENAGER from his work, threw him to the ground, tied him and took him away. All the while he was saying he is a citizen and has his passport ON HIM. All was ignored (after all he wasn't white) and he was later dumped in a Walmart parking lot miles away. There are now hundreds of verified incidents of U.S. citizens being attacked by ICE and CBP.

Even weirder after all the commenting on Biden's fitness is Wilcox's silence about the Felon who continuously falls asleep in meetings, gives hour long meandering speeches without any coherence, lies continuously (repeatedly claiming grocery prices have come way down for example), rages in tweets during the middle of the night and especially waging and threatening war on other countries. The current president clearly is suffering from dementia, but silence from Wilcox. As a side I'll mention our gaslighting Representative in hiding, Billy Huizenga, is even more silent while protecting the pedophiles and voting to take healthcare and food assistance from constituents.

So now we have the latest January 15th Musings about the IRS. Boy don't we all hate the IRS! What we have is another ranting that makes sense on the surface, while in true MAGA form leaves out the context. Conveniently not mentioned among the complaining about poor phone times, under staffing and old equipment is the fact that PRESIDENT Biden completed legislation that would have added 89,000 IRS employees OVER TEN YEARS to replace the 50,000 living and retiring during then, and replaced equipment. Phone wait times had markedly improved under Biden as well. Wilcox doesn't mention here it was Republicans who repealed the bulk of that legislation, it was the Felon in his first term that cut $278 MILLION from the IRS budget and since returning has cut staff again and frozen hiring. Of course Wilcox doesn't mention how the right-wing falsely claimed the 89,000 would be armed agents going after regular people. It was simply lying propaganda, but in MAGA world so what...Meanwhile audits of billionaire tax cheats have nearly ended and a million bucks donated can get you a pardon. Republicans have been after the IRS since before the Felon and are responsible for the complaints in the latest Musings.

From covertly expressed politics to overtly expressed ones and back to the covert Musings. An amazing journey that could have been way better.

Brian M. Smith

Want to feel the "care" in health care again? That's where we shine.

Whether you're hoping for easier access to care or a provider who truly listens, you can count on Beacon. That's how we've earned a reputation in our communities as the leader in comprehensive services — raising care standards and delivering an uplifting patient experience.

Learn how Beacon Health is creating a brighter future for patients across southwest Michigan at BeaconHealthSystem.org/Shine.

BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM

OBITUARY

Elizabeth Williams

Elizabeth Anne Williams, 62, of Mattawan, passed away suddenly on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026, at her home in Mattawan. She was born Oct. 23, 1963, in Fort Benning, Georgia, the daughter of Nathan Stackhouse, Jr., and Gerry Geraldine (Welch) Stackhouse.

Elizabeth was a woman of many talents and hobbies. She was an avid crafter and always had the best crafting equipment. She enjoyed teaching others crafts. She was also an animal lover and raised rabbits, chickens, sheep, and goats. She was incredibly active in 4-H throughout the years and got her children involved in the program, as she showed rabbits for many years. Elizabeth adored her homestead and made her own soaps, bread and food, all of which were phenomenal! One of her favorite activities was attending Renaissance fairs with her family. She would sew each costume she and her family would wear!

Above all else, her greatest joy was her children and grandchildren. She was always their No. 1 fan, especially when it came to Jordan's racing and Kelsey's dancing. She could always be heard in the crowd cheering her family on.

Elizabeth is survived by her loving husband, Daniel Williams; daughter, Kelsey (Chris) Cornell; sons, Jordan (Courtney) Filip and Joshua (Lindsey) Williams; grandchildren, Sawyer Cornell, Elena Cornell, Madison Williams, Jayden Williams, CJ Williams, Jaxson Williams and Landon Williams. She is also survived by her sister, Rebecca Stackhouse; mother, Gerry Stackhouse, father, Nathan Stackhouse, Jr., and mother-in-law, Irene Taylor.

Elizabeth was preceded in passing by her grandson, Roman Williams and brother, Nathan Stackhouse, III.

Family and friends are invited to visit and celebrate Elizabeth's life on Friday, Jan. 23, from 10 to 11 a.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 412 Cedar St., Paw Paw. A memorial service will begin at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Leonard Brinkmoeller officiating. There will be a luncheon held at the church following the service. Elizabeth will be laid to rest at Austin Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the National Kidney Foundation.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at: adamspawpaw.com

THE COURIER LEADER
PAW PAW FLASHES
SOUTH HAVEN BEACON
PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WILCOX NEWSPAPERS, LLC
PO Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 657-3072 • wilcoxnewspapers.com

Publisher - Mike Wilcox
Graphics- Liz LaValle
Reporter - Paul Garrod & James Windell
IT - Jordan Wilcox

PERIODICAL RATE POSTAGE PAID AT PAW PAW, MI 49079-0129
Postmaster-Send address changes to: PO Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010

Two Paw Paw businesses collaborate for new dining experience

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW – Two Paw Paw businesses have collaborated to offer a new dining experience for patrons attending The Lucky Wolf in Paw Paw.

"The Kitchen at The Lucky Wolf," began on Jan. 8. The collaboration was the idea of The Lucky Wolf owner Jason Deibler-Love and GG Sweets & Eats and Creative Catering owners, Sarah and Zach Cox.

"We're excited to have a partner that is as committed to his clients as much as we are," said Sarah Cox. "Once we move in and evolve, we'll find a rhythm," she said.

For January, dinner will be offered Thursday through Saturday with entertainment at The Lucky Wolf. The new collaboration plans to offer lunch and dinner seven days a week beginning in February.

On Friday, Jan. 16, an event, sponsored by Eleven Eleven Yoga, was a fundraiser for the India Love Sunflower Foundation. Patrons had a chance to take in "Napoleon Dynamite."

India, the wife of Deibler-Love, passed away in 2023.

An upstairs dinner will be offered on Saturday, Jan. 24, with a variety of bourbons and a performance by The Go Rounds.

For more information, visit: theluckywolfpawaw.com.

Driver's License Restoration
It's a Process... We Can Help!
Drunk Driving & Criminal Defense
"Friends... Don't Let Friends Plead Guilty!"
Law Office of
FREDERICK J. TAYLOR
269-388-6060 • 1-800-250-FRED
08-03-15FL

Palisades honored by Market One

On Monday, Jan. 12, Palisades was honored with Market One's Economic Pioneer of the Year Award, recognizing the job creation and economic growth driven by Market One's restart efforts. The award was presented by Market One Executive Director Zach Morris, Michigan Senate Leader Aric Nesbitt and Covert Township Supervisor Daywi Cook. Photo courtesy/Market One

Paw Paw/Lawton Masonic Lodge No. 25 gives donation to SafetyPup Program

PAW PAW - The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office recently recognized the Paw Paw/Lawton Masonic Lodge No. 25 for again making a generous donation in support of the SafetyPup Program.

"This continued partnership reflects the Lodge's ongoing commitment to the safety, education, and well-being of youth throughout Van Buren County," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

"The SafetyPup Program is an important youth-focused initiative utilized by the Sheriff's Office to provide educational materials that help teach children how to stay safe. Through this program, our deputies and staff distribute a variety of SafetyPup resources during school visits, community events, and youth outreach programs. These materials are specifically designed to help children understand personal safety, recognize dangerous situations, and know when and how to ask for help," said Sheriff Abbott.

He continued, "It was once again a pleasure to be invited to the Lodge, and a huge thank you for the donation," said Sheriff Abbott. "Support like this allows us to continue delivering meaningful safety education to the youth we serve across Van Buren County."

Sheriff Abbott said, "The Paw Paw/Lawton Masonic Lodge No. 25 represents Paw Paw, Lawton, Lawrence, Bloomingdale, and Gobles area members," said Andrew Sanborn-Whiteman, Worshipful Master of Paw Paw/Lawton Lodge No. 25. "We appreciate that your efforts help improve the lives of children in all of our communities."

He concluded, "The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office extends its sincere appreciation to Paw/Lawton Masonic Lodge No. 25 for their continued generosity and dedication to making a positive difference for the children and families of our county."

Michigan Department of Ed honors Paw Paw Red Wolves Food Service

The Michigan Department of Education Office of Nutrition Services paid tribute to Paw Paw Public Schools and the Paw Paw Red Wolves Food Service. Last summer, Meet Up and Eat Up, sponsored by the school district food service team, saw 100,128 meals given out during the summer months. Photos courtesy/Paw Paw Public Schools

When protecting your Auto, Home and Life, the
EXPERIENCE MATTERS.
Awarded the 2025 Farm Bureau Insurance Leadership in Action Award.
Call Derek Lietzau today!
(269) 655-1814
408 W. Michigan Ave. Paw Paw
DerekInsGroup.com
Proud recipient of The Farm Bureau Office of Excellence Award - where award-winning service meets real peace of mind.
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
A Company

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for Wings of God Transition Home

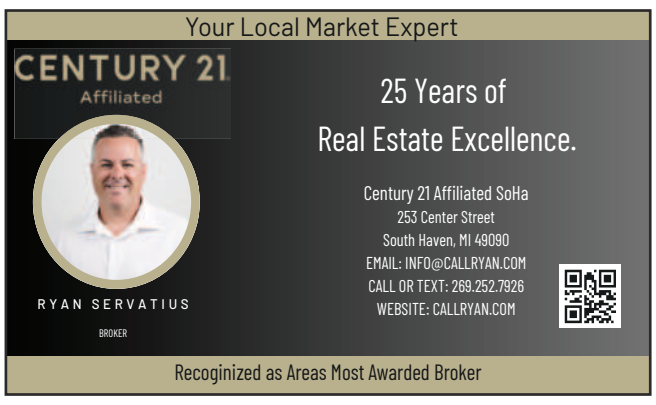
Wings of God Transition Home Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
is Saturday, February 14, 2026, 8 AM - 11 AM

at Paw Paw First Presbyterian Church, 120 Pine St. Paw Paw.

There is no entry fee — just an opportunity to give through a free-will donation, with prayerful hopes for generous contributions. Every donation helps support the life-changing work at Wings of God Transition Home through the Wings of God mission — providing hope, healing, and transformation to previously incarcerated women as they rebuild their lives.

If you would like more information about the Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser or about Wings of God Transition Home, Inc., please call 269.415.0777 or visit their website www.wingsofgodinc.org

SERVICE DIRECTORY



COUNTY LINE NURSERIES
SINCE 1942
CALL MIKE AT 269.621.4543
www.CountyLineNurseries.net
Like us on Facebook.
DESIGN AND INSTALL LOCAL PLANT MATERIALS GROWN AT OUR OWN NURSERY
outdoor spaces, paver walks, pergolas
large variety of locally grown trees
decorative shrubs and greenery
new industry leading products
irrigation systems
outdoor kitchens
Competitive pricing, cutting out the middleman.
Special discounts for Veterans and Seniors.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO PLACE AN AD
Call (269) 657-5080
Before Monday at 5:00 pm
or visit website @
wilcoxnewspapers.com

GET YOUR NEWS ONLINE
Sign Up Today for our E-Papers.
IT'S EASY!
Just visit our website @ epaper.wilcoxnews papers.com
to start your $20.00 email Subscription.

=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
SYNOPSIS OF MEETING
January 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order by Supervisor Palenick 6:00 P.M.
Board Members Present: Thomas Palenick, Dennis Reynolds, Rebecca Payne, James DeGroff,
Lisa Zinkil
Absent: None
Guest Present: Diana and Bryan Stump.
Approved December 8 th , 2025, meeting minutes.
Approved the Senior Center Assistant position.
Approved 2026/2027 Fire Budget.
Meeting Adjourned6:52 P.M.
Rebecca F. Payne, Clerk

PORTER TOWNSHIP
VAN BUREN COUNTY
88040 M-40 LAWTON, MI 49065
SNOWPLOW BID SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2025

Supervisor Oxley called the special meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Members present – Oxley, Bitely, Nesbitt, Packer, and Smith. Also present – Attorney Moraitis and two guests.
Motion Packer support by Bitely to adjourn the special meeting at 7:00 pm. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.

REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2025

Supervisor Oxley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present – Oxley, Bitely, Nesbitt, Packer, and Smith. Also present – Attorney Moraitis and two guests.
Motion by Bitely with support by Packer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 12, 2025. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Motion by Packer with support by Bitely to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Motion by Nesbitt with support by Bitely to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Motion by Nesbitt with support by Bitely to hire Automatic Door Service to install automatic door opener for handicap access at Township Hall addition entrance, at a cost not to exceed $3000. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Motion by Nesbitt with support by Packer to hire Automation Design to install cameras and a recorder for Township Hall addition, at a cost not to exceed $8000. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Motion by Nesbitt with support by Packer to hire Complete Outdoor Service, pending an interview with Supervisor Oxley, for winter 25/26 snowplow and de-ice service at Township Hall and Cemeteries. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
Motion by Packer with support by Bitely to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Smith
Porter Township Clerk

State of Michigan Probate Court Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case 2026-1004-DE
Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of **Max Connard Poindexter, Deceased**
Date of Birth N/A
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **MAX CONNARD POINDEXTER,** Deceased , died **November 15, 2025.**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **SHELLY HARTMANN**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste. 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
January 13, 2026
Attorney:
Schuitmaker Moraitis Law Office, P.C.
Christopher N. Moraitis P87052
181 West Michigan Ave., Ste. 1, P.O.Box 520
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-3177
Personal Representative:
Shelly Hartmann
13299 64th Street
South Haven, MI
269-277-2119

State of Michigan Probate Court Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case 2025-1203-DE
Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of **Anne M. Everly**
Date of Birth October 26,1950
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **Anne M. Everly,** Deceased , died **November 27, 2025.**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Monet Everly**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste. 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
January 13, 2026
Attorney:
Albert W. Laaksonen, II P43920
226 1/2 East Michigan Ave.
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-655-1035
Personal Representative:
Monet Everly
6027 Eagle Court
Portage, MI 49024
517-377-5900

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Matthew Craig; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 1/29/2026; Atty File #: 527625F01; Insurer: FNMA
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on February 26, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Matthew Craig an unmarried man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
Date of Mortgage: January 25, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: January 30, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $71,503.15
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Paw Paw, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: The Southwest 1/4 of Section 36, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, described as: beginning at the Southwest corner of said Section 36; thence North 00 degrees 28 minutes 57 seconds West, along the West line of said section, 990.0 feet; thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 07 seconds East, 440.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 28 minutes 57 seconds East, parallel with the West line of said section, 990.004 feet to the South line of said section; thence North 89 degrees 56 minutes 04 seconds West along said South line 440.00 feet to the place of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 35910 72nd Ave, Decatur, MI 49045-8700
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 29, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1582776
(01-29)(02-19)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Logan Phillips; Atty: PUBLIC NOTICE AGENCY - PUBLIC NOTICE AGENCY; 1st Pub: 1/15/2026; Atty File #: 25-017305; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM on February 12, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Logan Phillips, a single man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Success Mortgage Partners, Inc., a Michigan Corporation
Date of mortgage: April 12, 2019, Recorded on April 19, 2019, Book # 1683, on Page # 91. Foreclosing Assignee: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Three 88/100 Dollars ($107,963.88)
Mortgaged premises: Located in the Township of Decatur, County of Van Buren: LOT 6, BLOCK 2, DOUGLAS LEE ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 4 OF PLATS ON PAGE 19, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS.
Commonly known as 455 Douglas Dr Decatur MI 49045
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Assignee ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 25-017305
(01-15)(02-05)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Helen Burton; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 1/15/2026; Atty File #: 527692F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Helen L. Burton and Eddie J. Burton, wife and husband
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Date of Mortgage: May 4, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: May 9, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $191,261.14
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Arlington, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning on the West 1/4 post of Section 18, Town 2 South, Range 15 West, Arlington Township, Van Buren County, Michigan; thence South on the West line of said Section, 589.60 feet; thence East at right angles, 515.00 feet; thence North 589.60 feet; thence West 515.00 feet to the place beginning.
Except Beginning at the West 1/4 post of Section 18, Town 2 South, Range 15 West, Arlington Township, Van Buren County, Michigan; thence South 00 degrees 07 minutes 46 seconds West on the West section line, 208.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 26 minutes 59 seconds East, parallel with the East and West 1/4 line, 515.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 07 minutes 46 seconds East 208.00 feet to the East and West 1/4 line; thence North 89 degrees 26 minutes 59 seconds West on same, 515.00 feet to the place of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 34315 County Road 681, Bangor, MI 49013-9776
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 15, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1581941
(01-15)(02-05)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Gary Phelps; Atty: Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. - Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C.; 1st Pub: 1/8/2026; Atty File #: 25MI00753-1; Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, February 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Gary Phelps, Married Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Union Home Mortgage Corp., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated July 23, 2018, and recorded on August 7, 2018, in Liber 1672, Page 248, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated October 10, 2023 and recorded October 13, 2023 in Liber 1758, Page 164, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-One Thousand One Hundred Sixteen and 21/100 ($81,116.21) including interest at the rate of 5.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Village of Lawrence, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Parcel Number 1: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the land formerly owned by Lucius M. Hodges, said point being 1215 feet North of the West Quarter post of Section 10, Town 3 South, Range 15 West, thence North 4 rods, thence East 12 rods, thence South 4 rods, thence West along the line of the land formerly owned by said Lucius M. Hodges to the place of beginning. Parcel Number 2: Commencing 69 rods 10 links North of the West Quarter post of Section 10, Town 3 South, Range 15 West, thence North 4 rods, thence East 12 rods, thence South 4 rods, thence West 12 rods to beginning. Commonly known as: 720 N PAW PAW ST, LAWRENCE, MI 49064
If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: January 8, 2026 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Nationstar Mortgage LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00753-1
(01-08)(01-29)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Max Swank; Atty: Team J; 1st Pub: 1/1/2026; Atty File #: 524710F02; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 29, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Max Swank, a married man and Alexandria Swank, his wife via Loan Modification dated April 12, 2024
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): MidFirst Bank
Date of Mortgage: May 14, 2020
Date of Mortgage Recording: May 21, 2020
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $143,640.67
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: That part of the East half of the West half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 17, Town 3 South, Range 16 West, lying Southerly of the centerline of the Red Arrow Highway, except beginning at the intersection of the centerline of said Red Arrow Highway and the West line of the East half of the West half of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 17, thence Southerly on said line 200 feet, thence East 210 feet, thence North to the center of said road, thence Southwesterly along said centerline to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 66599 Red Arrow Hwy, Hartford, MI 49057-9725
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 1, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1581164
(01-01)(01-22)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC v. Travis Schuster; Atty: Trott Law P.C. - Trott Law P.C.; 1st Pub: 12/18/2025; Atty File #: 504518L03; Insurer: (unknown)
Van Buren County Circuit Court Case No. 25-074638-CH NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE The property described below shall be sold at public auction, by an authorized sheriff/deputy sheriff or county clerk/deputy county clerk, to the highest bidder, at the Circuit Court for the County of Van Buren, on the 5th of February, 2026 at 1:00 pm, local time. On said day at said time, the following described property shall be sold: real property situated in the Township of Porter, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and is particularly described as: That part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 8, Town 4 South, Range 13 West, described as Beginning at a point on the North and South 1/4 line of said Section, which is South 00 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds East, 600.00 feet from the center of said Section 8, said beginning point being North 00 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds West, 2034.10 feet from the South 1/4 post of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds East along said 1/4 line, 375.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 52 minutes 57 seconds West parallel with said East and West 1/4 line, 550.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds West parallel with said North and South 1/4 line, 375.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 52 minutes 57 seconds East parallel with said East and West 1/4 line, 550.00 feet to the point of beginning Tax Parcel ID: 80-16-008-014-10 More commonly known as: 78560 M 40 Lawton, MI 49065 This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of Notice: 12/18/2025
Trott Law, P.C.
1580064
(12-18)(01-22)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: John A. Gropp; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 12/25/2025; Atty File #: 25-015501; Insurer: FHLMC
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 22, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by John A. Gropp, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Top Flite Financial, Inc., Mortgagee, dated January 29, 2021 and recorded February 8, 2021 in Liber 1713, Page 540 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by PHH Asset Services LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Five and 72/100 Dollars ($64,805.72).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 22, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Bangor, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 29, TOWN 2 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST. ALSO THE SOUTH 90 FEET OF THE WEST 300 FEET OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION.
41557 68th St, Bangor, Michigan 49013
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: December 25, 2025
File No. 25-015501
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(12-25)(01-15)

Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity brings critical home repairs to county

By Art Nicholas

When a family's home needs critical repairs, but financial constraints make those repairs unaffordable, where do they turn? For eligible homeowners in South Haven and Van Buren County, Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity's Home Repair Program offers a lifeline.

While many people know Habitat for Humanity as the organization that builds new homes, Lakeshore Habitat has expanded its mission to include home repair services. The program focuses on preventing displacement by making existing homes safe, warm, and accessible for low to moderate-income families.

"Many people don't know that we have a home repair program that operates alongside our more well-known home building projects," explains Dave Rozman, Executive Director for Lakeshore Habitat. "We don't just build homes. We provide home repairs, too."

The program addresses three critical focus areas: health, safety, and accessibility. This means tackling everything from dangerous plumbing hazards and electrical issues to heating and cooling problems that can make homes uninhabitable during Michigan's extreme weather. The scope also extends to exterior rehabilitation including roofing and siding repairs, as well as accessibility improvements like ramps, railings, grab bars, and walk-in showers.

What sets Lakeshore Habitat's approach apart is its creative use of multiple funding sources, which allows the organization to provide repairs at significantly lower costs than traditional contractors. James Royster, Home Repair Program Manager, emphasizes the importance of this accessibility: "Qualified households may be eligible for repairs to be completed at no cost to the homeowner. The funding is time-sensitive so we encourage interested households to apply soon."

The program serves eligible homeowners in the City and Township of Holland, the City of Allegan and the Cities and Townships of Holland/Zealand. To qualify, applicants must meet specific criteria designed to help those who need it most while ensuring program sustainability.

First, the home must be owner-occupied and structurally built—mobile homes aren't eligible for this particular program, though Lakeshore Habitat can provide referrals to partner organizations for mobile home repairs. Second, household income must be at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. The maximum income varies based upon household size. For example, for a family of four in Van Buren County, the maximum income limit is $69,500. This income bracket targets working families who earn too much to qualify for some assistance programs but not enough to afford market-rate home repairs.

Importantly, homeowners don't need to live in a Habitat-built home to receive assistance. The program is open to any eligible homeowner willing to partner with Lakeshore Habitat throughout the repair process. This partnership approach reflects Habitat's broader philosophy of working alongside families rather than simply providing charity.

The application process begins with a simple interest form available on Lakeshore Habitat's website. From there, the team works with homeowners to assess their needs, determine eligibility, and develop a repair plan that addresses the most critical issues first.

For City of South Haven and South Haven Township residents struggling with aging homes and mounting repair needs, this program represents more than just fixing broken systems about stability, safety, and the ability to age in place. Accessibility improvements like walk-in showers and grab bars allow elderly residents to remain in their homes independently, while critical repairs to roofing, heating, and electrical systems ensure homes remain safe and habitable.

The program also serves a broader community purpose by stabilizing neighborhoods and preserving housing stock. When homes fall into disrepair, entire neighborhoods can suffer declining property values and increased safety hazards. By helping homeowners maintain their properties, Lakeshore Habitat contributes to the overall health and vitality of these Michigan communities.

For those interested in applying or learning more about the program, Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity encourages residents to visit their website at lakeshorehabitat.org/home-repair-program or call (616) 393-8001 ext. 110. The organization's office is located at 12727 Riley Street in Holland, Michigan.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

• WANTED •

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BANGOR, AN INDEPENDENT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME PASTOR to provide biblically based spiritual guidance, teachings, and sermons. Our current pastor is retiring, and we are looking to build ministries to youth, to provide a welcoming place for people of all ages, and to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Inquiries may be directed to: The pastoral search committee at: jcbabyar@yahoo.com or to: First Congregational Church of Bangor - Attn: pastoral search committee P.O. Box 127 - Bangor, MI 49013.

WE BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS, OTHER SPORTS MEMORABILIA AND OLD VINTAGE COINS. CAN BE REACHED AT 517-416-1629. WE PAY CASH.

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER. Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

TIM'S STUMP GRINDING SERVICE- I believe in respectable service. 269-299-5052, 269-624-6884.

HAULING, CLEANING RECYCLING. Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

PRO HANDYMAN SERVICE SOUTH HAVEN AREA Call 269-903-6397.

MEDICARE GURU
Call
Janet Bontrager
Insurance Advisor
(269) 998-6977

• AUCTIONS •

M&K MINI-STORAGE-206 RANDOLPH ST-BANGOR, MI 49013
269-427-1217
SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY:
#125 AMY MORTENSEN, #037 BRETT COOLEY
UNLESS PAID IN FULL BY FEBRUARY 7TH, 2026 BY 9:AM.

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant to Act 240 of the Public Acts of 1970 as amended in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 1/27/2026 at or after 9:30a.m.
EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw: Nicole Summerton, 245.

PUBLIC AUCTION FOR 2025 NISSAN SENTRA TO BE HELD AT SPIKES SERVICE OF MATTAWAN
Fri. Jan. 30th at Noon. Vin # 3N1AB8CVXSY347657 Mileage-656.
Bidding will start at towing and storage charges owed - $5600.00.

• FOR SALE •

HAY FOR SALE- 5 x 4 round bales, first cut, available 40 bales. Storage and inside, $50 apiece, 773-816-7120, 847-553-5418. Lawrence area.

Area Church Services

PAW PAW

ALMENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
27503 CR 375
Pastor Dan Phillips
668-2811 • www.almenaumc.com
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
(Childcare Provided)
FRIDAY: AA- 8 p.m.
••••
COVEY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
33566 28th Avenue
(corner of 28th & M-40)
269-628-2139 • www.coveyhill.org
Pastor Daniel Wilson
SUNDAY
Worship @10:45am
Nursery & Children's Church provided
Messages available on YouTube
••••
FAITH OF THE APOSTLES CURCH
34580 M-40 Highway
Elder David Harn
1 (269) 512-4586
SUNDAY
Christian Education - 10 a.m.
Wroship Service - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY • Bible Study - 7 p.m.
••••
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
32464 Red Arrow
Pastor Horace M. "Buddy" Turner... 657-2090
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/buddy-turner2 or search: "Buddy Turner"
••••
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
120 Pine St, Paw Paw
Worship: 11am Sundays in person or online at - www.pawpawpres.com or www.youtube.com/@1st-prespawpaw
••••
NEW HOPE FAMILY
201 W. Michigan Avenue
Pastor Mark Roberts
www.newhopefellowship.org
SUNDAY
Morning Worship - 10 a.m.
••••
PAW PAW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CURCH
60409 South M-40
Pastor Sean Reed
Lawn Services - 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.pawpaw.church
Oline worship services on Facebook & YourTube
••••
PAW PAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
420 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-7727
Pastor Dan Phillips
Sunday Service at 9:30 am
••••
RED ARROW MINISTRIES
31133 Red Arrow Highway
Rev. G. Ben Bowater, IV
Founding Pastor
SUNDAY Worship - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.redarrowministries.org for live stream worship
••••
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
412 Cedar Street
Handicap Accessible
657-3762 • www.stmarkpawpaw.com
e-mail: stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com
Mailing Address:
P.O.Box 307, Paw Paw, MI 49079
SUNDAY Worship 9:30 a.m.
••••
ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
500 Paw Paw Street
Fr. Dave Pinto
657-4459
SATURDAY Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY MASSES - 9AM & 11AM
Holy days & Daily Masses Consult Bulletin
••••
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
721 Pine Street
Pastor Phillip Phifer
Church: 657-4840
School: 657-5921
Sunday Services 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
••••
TRUTH CHURCH
32560 56th Ave. • 657-5042
www.truthchurchpaw-paw.com
Pastor Steven Green
SUNDAY
School - 10 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
THURSDAY Bible Study - 7 p.m.
••••
IGLESIA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO/ CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
30037 E Red Arrow Hwy., Bilingual
Pastors Maggie and Jay Salas
Domingo/Sunday: Adoración | Worship- 10 a.m.
Jueves/Thursday: Oracion/ Estudió Bíblico | Prayer/ Bible Study- 7 p.m.
(269) 377-6514
(269) 993-6727

LAWRENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Corner of Exchange & James Street • 674-8381
Pastor Doug Tipken
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m.
lawrencemethodist-church.org
for information of online videos

GOBLES

NORTHPOINT MINISTRIES OF GOBLES
04077 M40 • 269-628-9199
northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
Sunday: 11am - Morning Worship
Monday: 7 pm - REFRESH Bible Study
Wednesday: 7pm - Prayer Meeting

MARCELLUS

ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
296 E. Dibble St.
Rev. John Tran.
668-3312
SUNDAY - 9:45AM
••••
HARMONY CHAPEL
88067 C.R. 652 (In the SW corner of Porter Twp.)
Rev. Ron Packer
269-548-7348
Please join us as we continue to Worship in the Country
Since 1894
SUNDAY Service - 12:30 p.m.
For mor information or directions call:
Neal Ferguson: 269-624-6837
or
Ann Nesbitt: 269-624-6781

DECATUR

DECATUR BIBLE CHURCH
80797 M-51, Decatur • (269) 423-5111
Pastor Steven Pace
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 5:00 p.m.
facebook.com/DecaturBibleChurch • http://www.decaturbible.org
••••
Decatur New Hope Community Church
319 ½ West Delaware Street
Pastor Ross Tarantino
SUNDAY • Worship Service-10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY • Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
269-423-8136
info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

LAWTON

DAILY HARVEST MINISTRIES
117 S.Franklin Street
Pastor Jack Shanley
SUNDAY Worship - 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Bible Study - 6 p.m.
••••
IGLESIA PENTECOSTES
Eel Movimiento misionero Mundial, Inc.
Bilingual
117 S. Franklin Street
Pastors Arturo & Lourdez Hernandez
(616) 656-0137
SERVICES
Domingo - 9:30 a.m.
Martes y Jueves - 7:30 p.m.
Local: (269) 655-8071
••••
LAWTON EVANGELICAL CHURCH
425 S. Nursery Street, Lawton • 624-1524
Call if you need help in some way
www.lawtonevan.com
SUNDAY Worship Services - 10 a.m.
We offer Nursery and Children's Church
••••
NEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
502 N. Main Street, Lawton, MI 49065
Pastor Adam Potgiesser
Sunday Worship 10am
www.nc2online.com • facebook.com/nc2online
(269) 299-2003
••••
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
624-1050
Pastor Ashlei Horn
SUNDAY Worship - 10:00 a.m.
www.stpoulsumclawton.com or on Facebook
www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC

MATTAWAN

Calvary Community Church
7829 S. 5th St
Pastor Gregory VanHeukelom
375-6240 • www.calvaryreformed.org
Website: https://www.calvary-community.church/
Worship still 10 am Sunday with live Facebook
Jody's Closet, a free clothing ministry is open Mon/Tue 10am-12 and Thur 6-7:30pm
And the 1st Saturday of the month 8:30-10am.••••
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
56070 Murray Street
Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
SUNDAY
School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
(In person and on Facebook)
••••
MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263 • www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
SUNDAYS AT 10:25 A.M
••••
ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH
23830 Front Ave.
Rev. John Tran
668-3312 • www.stjbparish.com
Sunday Mass times to 8:00 AM & 11:30 AM Saturday Vigil 4:00PM

DIRECTORY OF CHURCH SERVICES IS PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

THE CLOTHES BASKET
314 Paw Paw Street
Paw Paw • 657-6441

BRONSON LakeView Hospital
408 Hazen Street
Paw Paw • 657-3141

CAMPBELL MURCH CEMETERY MEMORIALS, INC.
56556 Main Street
Mattawan • 668-3350

HIEMSTRA OPTICAL CO.
Michael Houser & staff
133 E. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • 657-4511

DE SMIA Insurance Agency, INC.
130 N. Main Street
Lawton • 624-4411

St Julian winery • distillery
Michigan's Oldest & Largest Winery
716 S. Kalamazoo Street
Paw Paw • 657-5568

Adams FUNERAL HOME
Serving the Community Since 1948
504 W. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • 657-6347

SERVICE DIRECTORY

BANGOR MINI STORAGE
31375 52 STREET, BANGOR MICHIGAN 49013
$10 OFF THE MONTH OF OCTOBER
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
269-674-1330

THE SHED SELF STORAGE
LAWTON, MI
THESHEDSELFSTORAGE.COM
269-200-2156

(269)501-0881
grantdalypainting@gmail.com
BBB A+ Rating
GRANT DALY PAINTING, LLC
"Let me take the pain out of painting"
Quality Work, Reasonable Rates, References
Residential, Commercial, Free Estimates
Interior, Exterior, Dry-wall Repair
Serving Southwest Michigan

ROLLING ACRES MINI BARNS
TOP RATED SHED BUILDER
Outdoor saunas, Sheds & barns,
Greenhouses, Outhouses, Tiny Homes,
Custom Swing Sets
Dog Houses & Chicken Coops, Horse Stables
Business hours
Mon - Sat 8:00am-8:00pm
Sunday Closed
58332 48th Ave, Lawrence, MI 49064
269-363-0599

Rabbit Hole Comics
OPEN
Tuesday - Saturday
12pm to 8pm
Sunday and Monday
by appointment only
Rabbithole comics
441 East Main Street, Hartford, MI 49057
269-621-5274 • rabbithole-comics.com

EARL SANDERS & SON WELL DRILLING INC.
Since 1943
Trouble with your water well?
Low Pressure?
Smelly Water?
No Water?
269-806-6730
Email: earlsandersinc@hotmail.com

LICENSED & INSURED
GREENSHIELD INSULATION
FREE ESTIMATES!
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
(269) 743-3121
Spray Foam | Blown-in Attic snd Wall Insulation | Removals
greenshieldinsulationco.com
MATTAWAN, MI.

HOUSE PAINTING
THE PAINTER
Interior & Exterior Home Painting
Pressure Washing
George
(269) 767-5700

WE CAN DO IT ALL!!
NO JOB TOO BIG • NO JOB TOO SMALL
Interior/ Exterior Remodels, Kitchens, Framing, Drywall, Flooring, Baths
Soffit/ Facia, Pressure Washing, Roofing, Siding, Decks, etc.
HB HANDYMAN SERVICES
269-599-8532
Owner Chris Hardenbrook
Chardenbrook82@gmail.com
Residential/Commercial
Free Estimates!!

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN HEARING SERVICES LLC
PREMIUM HEARING AIDS AT $3800
269-350-4852
www.swmihearing.com
24208 Front Ave., Unit A-6, Mattawan, MI 49071

OFFICE: 269-375-1425
WESTON SEPTIC, LLC
RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL
• Septic Tank Pumping • Install Risers
NOW HIRING!
Linda & Russ Weston, Owners

Mother Mary's Midwifery Services
(269) 655-7765
mothermarysmidwifery@gmail.com
Serving Southwest MI
RESPECTFUL, EMPOWERING CARE
Honoring bodily autonomy and supporting Informed decision-making
Inclusive care for a diverse clientele
• Offers preconception and prenatal care
• Birth and postpartum care for 6 weeks
• Newborn care for 6 weeks after delivery
• Lactation support
• Car seat education
• Nutrition counseling & child birth education
Home births and birth center options available

Plain Jane's Antiques
269-929-6162
seejaneshop@yahoo.com
DOWNTOWN PAW PAW
229 E. Michigan Ave • Paw Paw, MI 49079
• Vintage • Old Books • Rustic Decor • Rescued Attic • Jewelry • Salvage • Furniture • Garden

Jaqua
SOUTH HAVEN'S TOP REAL ESTATE BROKER, 12 YEARS IN A ROW!
YOUR LAKESHORE REAL ESTATE EXPERT
Amy O'Sullivan
Associate Broker
AS SEEN ON HGTV
www.SoldByAmyO.com
513 Broadway St
South Haven, MI 49090
C.269.214.1257 | aosullivan@jaquarealtors.com

mckenziemi.com 269-657-2548
MCKENZIE INSURANCE
Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS
Insurance for what matters most to you, since 1945.

BATES HOME REMODELING
Brent Bates
Bates5601@gmail.com
269-350-3350
Interior Trim
Tuck Pointing
Aluminum Trim
Pre-Hung Doors
Bee Removal
Carpentry
Tile Installed
Concrete Work
Deck Specialist

WALT & MARIE'S COUNTRY MARKET
CATERING & MORE!
• DINE IN • TAKE OUT • PARTY PLATTERS • BUFFET STYLE CATERING •
RENT OUR CAFE FOR YOUR PRIVATE EVENT FOR ONLY $50/HR
• BUSINESS MEETINGS • BIRTHDAY PARTIES • BABY SHOWERS • WEDDINGS • & MORE!
WALT & MARIE'S COUNTRY MARKET
44947 W RED ARROW HWY
PAW PAW, MI
269-657-7570

HOME SERVICES INSTALL & REPAIR
JESI WALLACE
(269) 716-6131
Call for your free estimate today!
Paw Paw, Michigan, & Surrounding Areas
www.homeservices-install.com
• Tub & Shower Replacements
• Hardwood, Tile and Flooring
• Interior Painting
• Reliable Home Repairs

Coastal Clean
housekeeping • home watch • handyman
Family Owned & Serving Southwest Michigan Since 2003
We're in your neighborhood!
• Residential cleaning
• Home Watch Services
• Commercial Cleaning
• Handyman Services
269-639-1515 • coastalclean.net

ROOFING & CONTRACTING
Protecting SW Michigan Properties For Over 20 Years!
ROOFING | SIDING | GUTTERS
269-359-ROOF • aecroof.com • Paw Paw, MI

OLíVE CART
Curating Noteworthy Flavors
oliveoilstoremichigan.com
424 PHOENIX ST
SOUTH HAVEN, MI
(269) 637-4754
421 STATE ST
ST. JOSEPH, MI
(269) 281-0120

BRINKER BROTHERS OUTDOOR LIVING
CUSTOMIZE YOUR OUTDOOR LIVING
269-806-4141
SERVICES
Azenco Pergolas
MagnaTrack Motorized Screens
Outdoor Kitchens
Decks & Railings
Outdoor Lighting
Endless Outdoor Features
Check out our website to see everything we offer
brinkerbrothersoutdoorliving.com

CAR CONNECTION
AUTO BODY AND SALES
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1983
Auto Body • Collision Repair • Insurance Work
Paint • Minor rust repair • Auto sales
Hours of operation • Mon - Fri; 9am to 5pm
22671 Red Arrow Hwy.,Mattawan, MI 49071
269-668-2379 • carconn.abs@gmail.com

RJ WATERPROOFING CONTRACTORS
Wet Basement?
• Internal/External Drain Tile Systems
• Water Seepage - Structural Wall & Floor Cracks
• Damp Wet Crawl Spaces
• Bowed & Cracked Walls
• Sump Pump/Emergency Backup System
• Mold Removal & Drywall Repair
24 Hour Emergency Service
Senior Discounts
269-337-7660
EXPERIENCED IN ALL METHODS OF BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SERVICES
We Design to fit *your* lifestyle.
269-639-9000
www.LandscapeDS.com
A Bakker Family Business since 1968
Lawn Fertilization and Weed Control
Your Local Lawn & Landscape Experts

BOB TOLSMA PLUMBING
Bob Tolsma • 4215 Lincoln Rd., Holland, MI 49423
Office (616)836-1197 • bob@tolsmaplumbing.com
• New Construtions
• Remodels Insured
• Water heaters
• Water Softeners
• Water & Sewer Hookups
• 24 HR Emergency

J&S TREE SERVICES LLC
30 years in business
Free Estimates
Specialize in storm damage
Tree Removal • Tree Trimming
Stump Grinding
269-207-1682
Gobles, MI

GET YOUR NEWS ONLINE
Sign Up Today for our E-Paper IT'S EASY
Just visit our website @ epaper.wilcoxnewspaper.com to start your $20.00 email Subscription.